

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
DIVISION OF JUVENILE JUSTICE SERVICES
POLICY AND PROCEDURES

Policy No.: 05-07
Subject: Use of Force

Effective Date: 05/07/09

Revision Date: 05/07/09

I. Policy Statement

Use of physical force by Division staff to restrain juveniles is prohibited except when reasonably necessary to prevent immediate physical harm to staff or other persons, self-harm of the juvenile, escape from Division custody, or substantial destruction of property.

II. Rationale

The purpose of this policy is to identify the conditions that may justify a reasonable use of force and define the type of force that is acceptable.

III. Definitions

- A. "Integrated Crisis Response (ICR)" is a customized Crisis Intervention Program that has been purchased by the Division. ICR teaches staff how to elicit cooperation through verbal requests and commands and/or to obtain control of juveniles through means of physical intervention.
- B. "Physical Force" is any time a staff member attempts to obtain control of a juvenile under Division care with the intent to restrain the juvenile by utilizing Division-sanctioned physical intervention techniques.

IV. Procedures

- A. All direct-care staff shall complete the mandatory "Integrated Crisis Response" training, as indicated in policy 02-01.
- B. Physical force or restraint will not be utilized until other reasonable alternatives have been tried. The employment of force shall be used when there is an immediate threat of danger and any of the following conditions are present:
 - 1. to protect yourself;
 - 2. to protect others;
 - 3. to prevent imminent and substantial destruction of property;
 - 4. to prevent escape from a Division facility;
 - 5. to protect youth from self-injury;
 - 6. to overcome physical resistance of a detainee for failure to comply with a reasonable order by staff and to prevent further disruptions.
- C. Staff shall utilize ICR in their attempt to control and de-escalate potentially volatile situations following the ICR verbal de-escalation model. If and when it becomes necessary to use physical force, staff shall use methods they have been

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trained in and use only the force required to obtain control. Force shall never exceed that which is reasonably needed to bring about control.

- D. Whenever the employment of force is deemed necessary, staff shall utilize the assistance of other staff (when possible) to witness the action and help gain control of the situation, if needed.
- E. Whenever physical force is used, involved staff shall complete incident reports in accordance with the "Incident Report" policy, 01-03, and notify a supervisor, parent/guardian, case manager (where applicable) and director, or designee.
- F. Staff shall notify appropriate medical staff for evaluation/consultation whenever force is used. Staff shall contact on-call medical personnel for direction during evenings or weekends.

V. Continuous Renewal

This policy shall be reviewed three (3) years to determine its effectiveness and appropriateness. This policy may be reviewed before that time to reflect substantive change.

This policy has been reviewed by the Board of Juvenile Justice Services, and is approved upon the signature of the Director.



Kirk J. Allen, Chair
Board of Juvenile Justice Services

05/07/09

Signature Date



Dan Maldonado, Director
Division of Juvenile Justice Services

05/07/09

Signature Date